

Range: Eastern highlands of Rhodesia from Melsetter, north to Inyanga, and in adjacent highland Moçambique.

While I have here treated *S. canicollis* and the forms of the *S. flavivertex* (Blanford) group as conspecific, in so doing following Benson and Chapin, I am not convinced that this treatment is correct. It may well be that a more satisfactory arrangement would be to treat *S. canicollis* and *S. flavivertex* and their component forms as two semispecies in a single superspecies. The form of the *flavivertex* group (*flavivertex*, *sassii* and *huillensis*) lack the grey over the hind head and neck, which surfaces are yellowish-olive, heavily streaked with sepia, as the mantle and scapulars. The wings are boldly barred with yellow and black, and ventrally males are more uniformly yellow than in *S. canicollis*. There is some marked variation in the colour of the tail in forms of the *flavivertex* group, the ventral surface of the tail in *flavivertex* being dusky, whereas in *sassii* and *huillensis* the same feathers are yellowish. In the three races of the *canicollis* complex the tail is yellow.

An undescribed subspecies of button-quail from the Philippines

by KENNETH C. PARKES

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The Ocellated Button-quail *Turnix ocellata*, one of the largest and most colourful members of its family, is confined to the island of Luzon in the Philippines. Like so many other species, it proves to vary geographically within this large and diverse island, having northern and southern subspecies. The type locality of *Oriolus ocellatus* Scopoli, 1786, was restricted to Manila by Hachisuka (*The birds of the Philippine Islands*, vol. 1, part 1, 1931, p. 162), and thus the northern bird is unnamed. It may be called

Turnix ocellata benguetensis, subsp. nov.

Type: American Museum of Natural History No. 544611, adult female from "North Luzon" (= Mt. Data, Benguet Subprovince, Mountain Province, Luzon, Philippines: see Whitehead, *Ibis* 1899, p. 84-85), collected 2nd February, 1895, by John Whitehead.

Characters: Similar to *T. o. ocellata* of Manila and vicinity, but with shorter wing and bill (see list of measurements, below). These button-quail are so variable in colour that it is difficult to distinguish between individual and geographic variation in a limited series. The one consistent character noted in the series examined was the posteriorward extension of the rufous colour of the lower breast and flanks in adults of *benguetensis* of both sexes.

Range: Known only from the highlands of Benguet Subprovince, Luzon.

Remarks: In addition to two pairs of adults collected by Whitehead and now at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), I have examined a specimen from Baguio, Benguet, collected by D. C. Worcester on 5th July, 1902, formerly Philippine Museum No. 10430, and now at

Carnegie Museum. This specimen was not sexed by the collector, and a later hand has pencilled "ad ♂?" on the label. Both its plumage characters and its measurements, however, indicate that it is a female just completing what appears to be its first prebasic ("post-juvenal") moult. A specimen in AMNH from north-eastern Luzon (Barrio Dibutuan, San Mariano, Isabela Province) is unfortunately unidentifiable. It was originally sexed as a male, but is not fully adult and may have been mis-sexed, especially as its wing is *longer* than that of any male *ocellata* measured. It is in a plumage not otherwise represented in the AMNH series. If it is, indeed, a female, and if it has attained its full size, it is intermediate between *ocellata* and *benguensis* in its measurements.

Measurements: *T. o. benguensis*: ♀ wing (flat) 97, 97, 98; ♀ culmen (from forehead) 16, 17, 18. ♂ wing 88, 88; ♂ culmen 16, 16.5. *T. o. ocellata*: ♀ wing 105, 105, 108, 108, 108, 110, 111; ♀ culmen 20, 20, 20, 20, 20.5, 20.5, 20.5, 21, 22. ♂ wing 93, 93, 94, 95, 96, 102, ♂ culmen 18.5, 18.5, 18.5, 18.5, 19, 19.5. *T. o. subsp.?* (Isabela Prov.): wing 105, culmen 18.5 mm.

Specimens examined (all from Luzon): *T. o. benguensis*: "North Luzon" (= Mt. Data, Mountain Province), 4; Baguio, Mountain Province, 1. *T. o. ocellata*: Bataan Province, 9; Bulacan Province, 2; Laguna Province, 1; "Manila" (including market birds), 3. *T. o. subsp.*: Isabela Province, 1.

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Notes on the Ocellated Rail (*Micropygia schomburgkii*) with first record from Central America

by ROBERT W. DICKERMAN

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On 9th March, 1967, the author, accompanied by Larry Wolf and Lloyd Kiff, was collecting the wedge-tailed Grass Finch (*Emberizoides herbicola*), at Buenos Aires, Puntarenas Province, Costa Rica, when a small rail was flushed and collected. The bird, which proved to be a female in basic plumage and with small gonads, was readily identified as an Ocellated Rail, *Micropygia schomburgkii* (Richard Schomburgk) by reference to *The Birds of Colombia* by R. Meyer de Schauensee, (1964). It is the first record of this monotypic genus for Central America.

The species is currently divided into two forms, the nominate subspecies, described from Venezuela and recorded from Colombia, French Guiana and Guyana; and *M. s. chapmani*, from the Matto Grosso of Brazil. In order to evaluate the geographic variation within the species and to identify subspecifically the Costa Rican specimen, I attempted to obtain on loan all available specimens. Twelve museums in the United States were contacted and a total of 30 specimens assembled, 27 from the American